



Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

abate
ə bāt'

v. To become weaker; to decrease.

The speaker waited until the applause had **abated** before continuing.**unabated** *adj.* Showing no sign of weakening; showing no decrease.
Representative Millet showed **unabated** enthusiasm for campaigning for the senate seat, even though he had been twice defeated for that office.**acknowledge**
ak nəl' ij

v. 1. To admit the existence of.

Did the police officer **acknowledge** your right to remain silent?

2. To express recognition or thanks for.

The new Wimbledon singles champion raised her hand to **acknowledge** the cheers of the crowd.**acknowledged** *adj.* Commonly accepted or recognized.
Bill James is an **acknowledged** expert on baseball statistics.**agent**
ā' jənt

n. 1. A person who acts or does business for another.

The author's **agent** found a company to publish his latest mystery story.

2. Something that brings about a result.

A new principal can be a powerful **agent** for change in a school.**authority**
ə thôr' ə tē

n. 1. The right to give orders, make decisions, or take action.

Only the Congress of the United States has the **authority** to declare war.

2. An expert source of information.

The researcher Jane Goodall is a world **authority** on chimpanzees.**authorities** *n.* A group of people who have the right to enforce laws.
The **authorities** closed the restaurant because it did not meet the proper standards for cleanliness.**devastate**
dev' ə stāt

v. To ruin or destroy completely.

Farmers in the Midwest fear that lack of rain will **devastate** the wheat crop.**devastating** *adj.* Causing destruction.A **devastating** hurricane destroyed hundreds of homes in southern Florida.**devastation** *n.* Great destruction.The earthquake in Japan created a scene of massive **devastation**.

epidemic
ep ə dem' ik

n. The rapid spreading of a disease to many people at one time.
The flu **epidemic** of 1918 killed over twenty million people in the Northern Hemisphere.

adj. Spreading rapidly as a disease over a wide area.
AIDS became **epidemic** in central Africa in the 1980s.

estimate
es' tə mət

n. A number that is not exact; a careful guess.
The mechanic's **estimate** for repairing the car is \$1000.

v. (es' tə māt) To figure out roughly; to make an approximate calculation.
We **estimate** that it will take us an hour to drive to the airport.

evict
ē vikt'

v. To force out of property by taking legal action.
The landlord threatened to **evict** the tenants for not paying the rent.

impartial
im pār' shəl

adj. Not favoring one side more than another; fair.
A judge should be **impartial** in the courtroom.

industrious
in dus' trē əs

adj. Hardworking; not lazy.
The more **industrious** workers in the clothing factory were rewarded with pay raises at the end of the year.

infuriate
in fyoor' ē āt

v. To make very angry.
Cruelty to animals **infuriates** me.

irrelevant
ir rel' ə vənt

adj. Having nothing to do with the subject.
The candidate's personal wealth is **irrelevant** to our discussion about his qualifications for the job.

precise
pri sīs'

adj. Exact; accurate.
Do you know the **precise** time that your plane arrives?

precision *n.* (pri sīzh' ən) Exactness.
An eye surgeon's work requires great **precision**.

sham
sham

n. Something fake or false.
Their offer to make us rich turned out to be a **sham**.

adj. Not genuine; fake.
Although he tried to appear sorry, his **sham** apology fooled no one.

v. To pretend.
We **shammed** illness so we could stay home.

trek
trek

n. A long, slow, and difficult journey.
The hikers were exhausted after their **trek** over the mountain.

v. To travel slowly and with difficulty.
Sam **trekked** ten miles into town after his car broke down.

1A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) you make that person very angry. (c) If you infuriate someone,
(b) you act in that person's place. (d) If you evict someone,

2. (a) something that is not genuine. (c) An estimate is
(b) a decrease in size or amount. (d) A sham is

3. (a) a disease that spreads rapidly. (c) An epidemic is
(b) a number that is not exact. (d) An agent is

4. (a) that is meant to be helpful. (c) A devastating comment is one
(b) An irrelevant comment is one (d) that is off the subject.

5. (a) An agent is (c) something that cannot be explained.
(b) A trek is (d) something that produces a result.

6. (a) one who works hard. (c) An industrious person is
(b) An impartial person is (d) one who is highly paid.

7. (a) Estimates are (c) people who enforce the law.
(b) Authorities are (d) witnesses to an accident.

8. (a) is strongly denied. (c) Something that is acknowledged
(b) is generally accepted. (d) Something that is unabated

9. (a) a state of destruction. (c) Precision is
(b) Devastation is (d) a sticking or holding together.

10. (a) An authority is (c) an expert source of information.
(b) a decrease in force or power. (d) A trek is

1B

Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 1.

1. The people had no right to be there, so they were **removed by force** from the house.
2. The governor has the **right under the law** to appoint judges to state courts.
3. Those called for jury duty are expected to be **fair and not to favor either side**.
4. The parts of a jigsaw puzzle must be cut with **very great care** if they are to fit together properly.
5. In a special ceremony, the town **expressed its gratitude for** the heroic act of the firefighter.
6. To succeed in the movie business, you need a good **person to represent you**.
7. The carpenter will **give a rough idea of** the cost of building a deck.
8. We waited for the traffic to **decrease in volume** before we left the city.
9. Yesterday's tornado in eastern Kansas **completely ruined** a trailer park.
10. We **made a long and difficult journey** across the desert for three days.

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1c

Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

- Which of the following can be **shammed**?
(a) concern (c) sleep
(b) honesty (d) interest
- Which of the following might be **estimated**?
(a) the cost of repairs (c) the population of a town
(b) the height of a hill (d) the number of days in a week
- Which of the following would be **irrelevant** in judging a student's writing?
(a) the student's age (c) the width of the margins
(b) the student's name (d) the color of the ink used
- Which of the following might result in someone's being **evicted** from a house?
(a) failing to pay the rent (c) causing damage to it
(b) using it for illegal purposes (d) running a business from it
- Which of the following can **abate**?
(a) anger (c) silence
(b) high winds (d) applause
- Which of the following are **precise** amounts?
(a) 2,145 (c) half a dozen
(b) several hundred (d) a lot
- Which of the following might be considered a **trek**?
(a) a trip to the corner store (c) a walk across Canada
(b) a ride in a hot-air balloon (d) a plane trip to Europe
- Which of the following would be **devastating** to a town?
(a) a new mayor (c) a shopping mall
(b) an earthquake (d) a celebration

Circle the two synonyms in each group of words.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. authority | expert | agent | practice |
| 2. admit | acknowledge | forget | devastate |
| 3. calculation | decision | estimate | trek |
| 4. secret | irrelevant | fair | impartial |
| 5. weak | fake | precise | sham |
| 6. increase | destroy | devastate | infuriate |

Circle the two antonyms in each group of words.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------|
| 7. abate | rule | increase | evict |
| 8. trek | deny | infuriate | soothe |
| 9. epidemic | precise | inaccurate | angry |
| 10. industrious | irrelevant | strong | lazy |

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Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

The Trail of Tears



The original inhabitants of what is now Kentucky and Tennessee were an **industrious** people who lived mainly by hunting and farming. They were called Cherokees by the Europeans who first made contact with them. The Europeans had settled along the East Coast in the early 1600s. These first meetings between European traders and Cherokees were friendly but were to have **devastating** consequences for the Native Americans later. The Europeans brought goods for trading, it's true. But they also brought smallpox, a disease that had been unknown in North America before their arrival. This disease left the body covered with sores and was often fatal. In 1745, a smallpox **epidemic** struck the Cherokee people. It killed more than half the population. And that was just the beginning of the Cherokee people's woes.

The United States government recognized the Cherokee Nation as a separate country and **acknowledged** its right to sign treaties, or legally binding agreements, with other countries. In treaty after treaty, the Cherokees gave more and more of their land to the United States government. In return, they gained the right to **evict** anyone who settled illegally on the remaining land. But settlers ignored these agreements. They continued to move onto Cherokee land in great numbers. The United States government did not even pretend to be **impartial** in the disputes that arose as a result. The appeals of the Cherokee leaders fell on deaf ears. The theft of their land continued **unabated**. By 1828, the Cherokee nation was one-tenth the size it had been a hundred years earlier.

In 1835, an **agent** of the United States government persuaded twenty Cherokees to sign one final treaty. According to its terms, the Cherokees would get five million dollars for leaving the last of their land and moving almost a thousand miles west. The Cherokee signers had no **authority** to act for the entire Cherokee Nation, but this fact was brushed aside as **irrelevant** by those in the government who wanted the land. The chief justice of the United States declared the agreement a **sham**. His opinion **infuriated** President Andrew Jackson, who replied, "The chief justice has made his decision; now let him enforce it."

Precisely two years after the signing of the agreement, on the orders of the president, two thousand heavily armed United States soldiers arrived on Cherokee land. They drove the Cherokee families from their homes. Nearly twenty thousand people were forced to **trek** more than nine hundred miles west into what is now Oklahoma. They went mostly on foot. It has been **estimated** that about four thousand Native Americans died on the journey, which became known as "the trail of tears." In a sense, though, the Cherokees had traveled an even longer and even more sorrowful trail, a journey in time that began when the unsuspecting Cherokees first greeted the Europeans as friends.

▶ Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. Why did smallpox kill so many Cherokees in such a short time?

2. About how many Cherokees died of smallpox in 1745?

3. Did the Cherokees' repeated appeals to the United States government slow down the theft of their land?

4. What is the meaning of **agent** as it is used in the passage?

5. Why was the Cherokees' last treaty a **sham**?

6. Why might we think that the Cherokees were successful farmers?

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7. Were those who wanted the Cherokees' land influenced by the fact that the Cherokee signers of the 1835 treaty had acted illegally?

8. What is the meaning of **acknowledged** as it is used in the passage?

9. Why do you think that President Jackson was **infuriated** by the chief justice's opinion?

10. What is the meaning of **authority** as it is used in the passage?

11. What happened when the Cherokees tried to **evict** illegal settlers?

12. How should the United States government have behaved in dealing with the disputes between the Cherokees and the white settlers?

13. How far did the Cherokees have to travel to get to what is now Oklahoma?

14. Is the figure of 20,000 persons forced out of their homes an exact one?

15. What kind of effect did the forced removal of the Cherokees from their land have on them?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

✪ An **epidemic** disease spreads rapidly and affects many people. (Polio was *epidemic* in the U.S. in the 1950s.) An *endemic* disease occurs normally in an area because of the conditions in that area. (Malaria is *endemic* to tropical Africa.)

✪ **Trek** comes from an old Dutch word *treck*, meaning “to pull or drag.” Dutch settlers in South Africa used the word when describing their journeys by covered wagon because they often had to drag the wagons themselves. The English word, therefore, has come to mean any long, slow, difficult journey.

✪ *Industry* is a noun and means (1) “a branch of business or manufacturing” (the automobile *industry*; the film *industry*), and (2) “a willingness to work hard” (The teacher praised the student’s *industry*). The two adjectives formed from this noun relate to its two different meanings. *Industrial* means “having to do with business or manufacturing.” (The United States and Japan are two of the world’s leading *industrial* nations.) **Industrious** relates to the second meaning of *industry*.

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